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THE PARTICULARS OF THE ENQUIRY INTO

Mr. BENJAMIN WOOLEY'S Conduct; AND His being Stationed by the Court of Directors of the *South-Sea* Company, First Factor at *Porto Bello* and *Panama*.

712.9.10
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K Wooley

Humbly Dedicated to *Thomas Woodford*, Esq;

LONDON:

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(Price Sixpence.)

TO

Thomas Woodford, Eſq;

SIR,

THE Publick Profeſſions that You made in the General Court of the South Sea Company held the 16th of *April* laſt, that your *Intention to Compromiſe matters*, induced You to move for a Committee to Enquire into Mr. *Benjamin Woolley*'s Conduct at the *Havanah*, Raiſed a Curioſity in me, to ſee the Minutes of the Court and Committee of Correſpondence; as alſo the Extracts of Letters taken in that Enquiry, and having with ſome Difficulty obtain'd them, in Juſtice to You, they are made Publick; for as You was the Father of the Committee, You ought to be the Patron of their Endeavours.

Every Page Sir, ſhews the Neceſſity of your Pacifying Scheme; Every Paragraph is a Proof how prudentially your Good Nature was Exerted to Quench the Flames, You wiſely ſaw would blaze out on too ſtrict a Diſquiſition.

Tho' I have a ſtrong Opinion of your Diſintereſtedneſs, (which is ſufficiently manifeſt from the little Inclination, You have ſhewn to interfere in the Management of Companies) I can hardly forbear Envying You the Fruits ariſing from it, Fruits that are much eaſier felt then Expreſſed, for *great they muſt be on ſuch neceſſary Occaſions.* What Satisfaction of Mind, what Gratulations from your Friends, did You not receive, when your Pacifying Scheme had its deſired Effect? What Triumphing over thoſe of the Committee, who leſs happy then your ſelf at Expedients, only aim'd at bringing the Truth to Light?

Methinks I ſee You Dictating to the Court of Directors and the Committee, Quieting the Turbulent, Anſwering the Inquiſitive, Endeavouring to Convince the Reformer,

Reformer, Clearing up ſome Difficulties, and ſtarting others, Excuſing the Errors of the Young Man, Joining with thoſe who admired his Knowledge, Extolling the Purity of his Stile, and in Raptures at his great Diſpatch of Buſineſs both *for himſelf* and the Company: To have heard You Expatiate with your uſual Eloquence on his ſtrict adherence to the Orders of the Court, to Sell Negroes only for Ready Money, and his great Ingenuity in relating the whole Truth concerning Private Trade, would have given me an unſpeakable Pleaſure.

How happy is our Deputy Governour in ſuch a Couſin, who at an Age when other Youths are juſt wean'd, from an Apprenticeſhip, is fit to Manage the greateſt Factory, belonging to the South Sea Company; what a benefit would it be to them, if our Deputy had more ſuch Relations, that each Factory might be ſupplyed with Perſons as well qualifyed, and as proper to be Employ'd as Mr. *Woolleys*; what a bleſſed Proſpect would the Proprietors have; what Obligations

to

to their Deputy. But I am afraid, leaſt even You may think me too Partial on this Occaſion, if I ſhould expatiate any more on ſuch a Subject, and therefore beg leave to Congratulate You on your own Good Nature, which will induce You to Pardon any Errors that may have Crept into the following Piece, and to receive this Dedication as a Mark of that Profound Attachment, with which I have the Honour to be,

SIR,

Your great Admirer, &c.

THE

THE PREFACE.

THE *Succeſs of the* South Sea *Company in their Commerce, greatly depends on the Abilities and Integrity of the Agents, or Factors, appointed to Conduct the ſame; therefore when juſt Grounds, appear to ſuſpect a Perſon in any Degree unequal or unfit for the Truſt repoſed in him, a fair and open Impeachment is certainly the indubitable Right of every Proprietor; In Conſequence of this, an impartial Enquiry into the matter, of Complaint, againſt Mr.* Benjamin Woolley's *being appointed Firſt Factor for* Portobello, *and* Panama *cannot with Juſtice be deemed ſuch an Act of Severity as ſome Gentlemen in the Direction have ſeem'd to think, as he is Conceiv'd an Improper Perſon for that Office, for the following Reaſons:* 1ſt, *In Reſpect*

to

to his Years, and Inexperience in Buſineſs, not equal to a Place of ſo great a Truſt. And, 2dly, *As Divers Complaints have been made to the Court of Directors againſt him (which appear to be too well founded by their own Letters to Him dated* 31, January *laſt) and are of ſuch a Nature as ſhew him very unfit for the ſame Truſt, in Regard to his Conduct; therefore if either of theſe Points are proved in the Courſe of the Enquiry, the Charge made againſt him in the General Court is Juſtified, and the Juſtice due to the Proprietors, and the Characters of the Gentlemen appointed to Examine his Conduct, is a ſufficient Vindication, for publiſhing the following Notes, taken from the Orders and Reſolutions of the Court of Directors, Minutes of ſeveral Committees, and original or authenticated Papers produced in this Enquiry.*

At a General Court Thurſday *the* 20*th of* March, 1734-5.

Ordered,
That it be Referr'd to the Court of Directors to Reconſider the Choice and Stationing of Mr. *Woolley* as firſt Factor of *Porto Bello*, and that five of the Proprietors be added to them on this Occaſion.

Reſolved,
That the following Proprietors (three whereof to be a *Quorum*) be the Gentlemen that ſhall be added to the Court of Directors on that Occaſion, *viz.*

Mr. *Sloane*.
Mr. *Woodford*.
Mr. *Caſwall*.
Mr. *Ellis*.
Mr. *Ruck*.

At a General Court Monday *the* 31ſt *of* March, 1735.

Mr. *Sloane* acquainted the Court that the Committee appointed by the laſt General Court concerning the Choice and Stationing of Mr. *Woolley*, as firſt Factor at *Porto Bello*, had met the Court of Directors, but were not Ready to make a Report, but hop'd by the Meeting of the next General Court, to lay the ſame before them.

THE PARTICULARS OF THE Enquiry into Mr. *Benjamin Woolley's* Conduct, *&c.*

MR. *Benjamin Woolley* was Baptized the 19*th May*, 1712, as appeared by Certificates produced by Mr *Briſtow*, Deputy Governour, and Mr. *Sloan.*

Mr. *Woolley* petitioned the Court of Directors of the *South Sea* Company, the 30th of *March*, 1733, to be ſent Book-keeper to the *Havana* Factory; he was choſe Book-keeper the 6th of *April* following, and on the 27th of the ſame Month ſigned his Security Bond.

Extract of the Eighth Article of his Inſtructions, dated the 27*th* April, 1733.

" Neither are you to do, or willingly ſuffer " to be done, any Act, Matter or Thing, in " Contravention of the Tenour of the *Aſſiento* " Contract, or any Article thereof, under the " ſevereſt Penalties that can be impoſed on you.

By Vertue of the Company's Inſtructions he was, in Caſe of Death, if either of the Factors died, to ſucceed as junior Factor, which he accordingly did, upon the Death of Mr. *Holloway*, which happened on the 9th of *October*, 1733, as appears by the joint Letter of Meſſ. *Eden* and *Woolley* to the Court of Directors, dated the 12th of the ſame Month, and Mr. *Woolley* executed an Indenture to perform the Covenants and Agreements of Factor, agreable to Meſſ. *Holloway*'s and *Eden*'s the 27th of *April*, and ſignified to the Court, that in a few Days he would enter into Articles of Partnerſhip.

He became ſole Factor at *Havana* the 22d of *October*, 1733, on the Death of Mr. *Eden*, of which he adviſed the Court of Directors in his Letter to them, dated 15th *November* following, *N. S.* wherein he ſignifies he had taken all the Company's Concerns into his Hands, and deſired to be eſtabliſhed in the Poſt he enjoy'd by Succeſſion, which Letter being read before the Committee of Correſpondence, upon conſidering the State of that Factory, report on the 7th *February*, 1733, as follows, *viz.*

" That two Factors would be the proper " Number to compoſe the *Havana* Factory in " future; the junior to keep the Books: And " conſidering the caſe of Mr. *Woolley*, the Com- " pany's preſent Factor there, the Committe " think, As the Station he is now in, aroſe from " a Succeſſion, on the Death of Meſſ. *Holloway* " and *Eaen*, before he can be ſuppoſed to have " gained *that Experience neceſſary for the chief*

" *Ma-*

" *Management of the Company's Affairs at that* " *Factory*; and at the ſame Time, that it will " be an Injury to his Character with the *Spani-* " *ards*, to place any Perſon over his Head; and " in regard his Conduct hitherto appears to be " ſuch as may merit the Company's further Fa- " vour, the Committee recommended to the " Court, their ſending him to *Porto Bello* as a " junior Factor.

At a Court of Directors the 8th of February, 1733.

The above Report concerning two Factors to be at *Havana* for the future, and Mr. *Woolley*'s Affair was read and agreed to.

At a Committee of Correſpondence the 23d of October, 1734.

The Committee taking into Conſideration their Report of Yeſterday, for ſettling the *Havana* Factory, whereby Mr. *Woolley*, who is at preſent the Company's Factor there, will be diſcharged from that Station. And alſo taking into Conſideration, the Report of the Committee of the 7th of February laſt, confirmed by the Court, whereby the Court agreed he was a proper Perſon to be employ'd at *Porto Bello* as a junior Factor, the Committee therefore recommended to the Court to ſettle the *Porto Bello* Factory out of Hand.

The

The Court of Directors on the 25th of *October*, 1734. Agreed to the Report of the Committee of 22d, 23d, 24th, Inſtant, and this Morning; and,

Ordered,

That it be referred to the ſaid Committee to conſider of Settling the *Panama* and *Porto Bello* Factory.

At a Committee of Correſpondence the 31ſt of October, 1734.

In Purſuance of the Reſolution of the laſt Court, the Committee took into Conſideration the Settling the *Panama* and *Porto Bello* Factory, and are of Opinion, that the ſaid Factory conſiſt of two Factors, and a Book-keeper, and Settled the Tarif and Commiſſion.

The Court of Directors *November* the 1ſt, agreed to the ſaid Report of the Committee of Correſpondence.

The Court moved the 8th of *November*, to appoint a Day for receiving Petitions for Factors and Book-keepers for *Porto Bello*, and,

Reſolved,

To Read Petitions the 15th.

At a Court of Directors the 15th of November, 1734.

The Petitions of the following Perſons were ſeverally Read and

Ordered, To lye by till the Choice.

Mr.

Mr. *Benjamin Woolley.*
Mr. *William Kell.*
Mrs. *Eliz. Davidſon* for her Son.
Mr. *James Saville.*
Mr. *Peter Serjeant*, Jun.
Mr. *John Tatem.*
} For Factors.

Mr. *Francis Humphrys* for Factor and Accountant.

Mr. *Tyron* for Mr. *Richard Lindſey* to be Book-keeper.

Reſolved,

" That the ſaid Factory (do now) conſiſt of " Three Factors, the Junior to keep the Books.

At a Court of Directors the 20th of December, 1734.

The Court proceeded to a Choice of Three Factors, and having Balloted for each of the ſeveral Candidates, the Sub-Governor collected the Votes, and Reported,

That Mr. *Benjamin Woolley* at the *Havana*, Mr. *Moſes Davidſon* at *Porto Bello*, and Mr. *Humphreys* late Book-keeper at *Buenos-Ayres*, had the Majority of Votes.

Ordered,

" That it be Refered to the Committee of " Correſpondence, to conſider of Stationing the " ſaid Three Factors, and alſo whether it is not " proper, to chooſe Mr. *Parmenter* the Com- " pany's Agent now at *Panama* to be Chief of " the *Panama* and *Porto Bello* Factory.

At a Committee of Correſpondence the 8th of January, 1734-5.

The Committee in purſuance of the Reference of the laſt Court to this Committee, after Conſideration thereof, report their Opinion, "That "Mr. *Parmenter* be added to the ſaid Factory. "And that Mr. *Parmenter* be Chief Factor, "Mr. *Woolley* Second, Mr. *Davidſon* third, and "Mr. *Humphreys* fourth, and to keep the "Books."

The Commiſſion to be 6 *per Cent.* and divided as follows,

Mr. *Parmenter*,	2	*Twentieths.*
Mr. *Woolley*	8	*Ditto*
Mr. *Davidſon*	7	*Ditto*
Mr. *Humphreys*	3	*Ditto*

At a Court of Directors the 10*th of* January, 1734-5.

"The above Report was read and agreed to, "except what relates to the Stationing Mr. *Par-* "*menter* as Chief of the *Panama* and *Porto* "*Bello* Factory, and the dividing the Com- "miſſion allowed the Factors, which Particu- "lars were Re-committed.

"The Committee of Correſpondence the "16th of *January*, 1734-5. Reviſed that Part "of their Report the 8th Inſtant, concerning "the Stationing of Mr. *Parmenter* and dividing

"the

" the Commiſſion. And the Committe finding
" that Difficulties ariſe with Regard to the divi-
" ding the Commiſſion, and likewiſe conſidering
" that the Original Intent and Deſign of the
" Court was, That Mr. *Parmenter* ſhould be
" diſtinct from the Factors, are therefore of
" Opinion that he continue only the Company's
" Agent, with the Care of getting in their Debts
" and Effects, due and Out Standing, and that
" he be not appointed Chief of the ſaid Factory,
" but that the ſame conſiſt of the three Factors
" choſen the 20th *Ultimo* by the Court, and that
" they be Stationed in the Manner following,
" *Viz.*

Mr. *Woolley* Firſt.
Mr. *Davidſon* Second.
Mr. *Humphreys junior-Factor and Book-keeper.*

" And that the Commiſſion of 6 *per Cent.* for
" ſaid Factory be divided as follows, *Viz.*

5-12th's to Mr. *Woolley.*
4-12th's to Mr. *Davidſon.*
3-12th's to Mr. *Humphreys.*

Extract of Mr. Woolley's *Petition Read in Court the* 15*th of* November, 1734.

" He has ſerved your Honours as Book-
" keeper and Sole Factor at *Havana*, in which
" Station he now is. Is Maſter of the *Spaniſh*
" Tongue. That on the 7th of *February* laſt,
" the Committe of Correſpondence were pleaſed
" to make a Report in his Favour, for appoint-

" ing him a Factor at *Porto Bello*; which your " Honours having been pleaſed to agree to, your " Petitioner humbly prays your Honours to con- " firm him one of your Factors at *Porto Bello.*

Extract of Mrs. Eliz. Davidſon's *Petition for her Son.*

" Her ſaid Son is in the Thirtieth Year of " his Age; that he ſerved the Company Sixteen " or Eighteen Months, and then went Abroad " 1723. in the Company's Annual Ship for " *Cartagena* and *Porto Bello*, to qualifie himſelf " for the Company's Service, and continued " Abroad almoſt Four Years for that Purpoſe, " without Wages from, or any Expences to the " Company, but was aſhore the whole time at " his own Charge, to get Maſter of the *Spaniſh* " Language, which he now Speaks, Reads, and " Writes, and with his Induſtry was not wanting " to gain Knowledge in the Trade, that he was af- " terwards appointed Firſt Writer to *Porto Bello* " Factory; on Mr. *Rigby*'s Death Book-keeper; " and hoped to be Junior Factor on Death or " Removal. After more than two Years Mr. *Hut-* " *chinſon* called home, and Mr. *Dundas* ſent " from *England* to ſucced him, on Mr. *Johnſon*'s " coming home he acted as Junior Factor, on " Mr. *Tinker*'s coming home Third Factor. " But your Honours having ſent out Mr. *Par-* " *menter*, appointed him to his former Station " of Book keeper. About Six Years he has acted " as Third Factor.

N. B.

N. B. By the Committee of Correſpondence Appointing Mr. *Parmenter* Chief Factor for *Porto Bello* and *Panama* on the 8th of *January* 1734, in Purſuance of the Courts Recommendation of the 20th of *December*; One would conceive he was the fitteſt and ableſt Perſon for that Station, but the Commiſſion appointed Him of 2 twentieths (when Mr. *Woolley* who was ſecond Factor had 8 twentieths and the Bookeeper 3) under a Suppoſition that his Profit would be Conſiderable, as the only Agent for getting in the old Dependencies, muſt naturally be an Objection to Himſelf or Friends for His not accepting that Poſt, becauſe the time of his Agency for recovering Old Dependencies would have Expired by the time He could have Notice of His being appointed firſt Factor. The Reaſons for rejecting him afterwards, and the ſubſequent Diſpoſition of ſaid Factory, are certainly beſt known to the Committee of Correſpondence, who made the Appointment; As from the Tenure of the Petition of *Woolley* and *Davidſon*, it is very natural to ſuppoſe the latter, had the faireſt Title, to be the firſt in Nomination of thoſe two; from his having been in the Company's Service above 12 Years at *Porto Bello*, and the following Extracts of Letters and tranſlated *Spaniſh* Papers, ſhew that the Obſervation the Court of Directors had made, of the Youth and Inexperience of Mr. *Woolley* for firſt Factor at *Havana*, was well grounded; what Merit He acquir'd in a few Months to be fit

for firſt Factor at *Porto Bello* and *Panama* their Principal Factory, They beſt know.

Extract of Meſſieurs, Eden *and* Wolley's *Letter to the Court of Directors dated at* Havana 12*th* October 1733, *read in Court the 7th* December, 1733, *and referred to a Committee of Corſpondence.*

" After we have made up our Account of " Houſe Expences, and the Account of the Ex- " pences of Mr. *Holloway*'s Funeral, we appre- " hend there will be little or nothing remain- " ing of his Part of the Commiſſion ariſing on " the Sale of the 14 Negroes which we had " Sold before he died. —— We have not yet been " able to Sell more than 14 Negroes, we are in " hopes we ſhall have more Negroe Buyers in " a little time, than we have hitherto had, tho' " we are afraid we ſhall find it difficult to di- " ſpoſe of Negroes; *as we are confined to take* " *nothing but Money.*

Extract of Mr. Woolley's *Letter to the Court of Directors dated at* Havana *the* 15*th* November 1733, *referred to ſaid Committee.*

" Mr. *Eden* died *October* 22d, 1733. — I can't " believe Mr. *Holloway*'s Effects will near " anſwer his 600 *l.* (Money impreſ'd to Him) " to the Company. —— Mr. *Eden*'s will like- " ly overpay what he owes. —— Ever ſince " Mr. *Eden*'s deceaſe, I have Sold but one " Negroe, and now indeed the Sale ſeems to be entirely

" entirely at a Stop, *I am certain I ſhall be a*
" *looſer by the Tarif*, the 2-3*ds* of a Ryal a Day
" for their Maintenance, and the 3 *pieces of*
" *Eight* contingent Charge will not be near ſuf-
" ficient to defray their Expence, if they ſtay
" long on our Hands.—Several of the Slaves
" have been Sick, tho' none of them died, and
" the Expence of nurſing here amounts to 6
" Ryals a Day *per* Negroe, for which no Allow-
" ance is made by the Company, beſides the
" Winter, and Norths coming on they muſt all
" be Cloathed, or many will be in danger of be-
" ing loſt.—I fear I ſhall have no Opportunity
" of writing to *Jamaica*, to contradict Mr. *Prat-*
" *ters* ſending down the ten Slaves by each of
" the three Ships writ for, and I am certain
" they won't Sell, for the Cargo that we brought
" down was Eſteem'd by him the fineſt he ever
" had Bought, of which there is not yet Sold
" half the 46, Merchants and People of the
" beſt Judgment ſay that we ſhall not Sell 100
" Negroes the firſt Year, and not fifty any Years
" afterwards for Money.—— *Fears no ſtop to*
" *Illicit Trade.* On the Death of Mr. *Holloway*
" I took all the Company's Concerns into my
" Hands.—I took care that the Tranſlator ſaw
" no other Part but the 6th Article of your In-
" ſtructions to me, and the 37th of thoſe to
" Meſſ. *Holloway* and *Elden*.

He deſires the Company to confirm him in his Poſt coming to him by the Death of his Predeceſſors.

N. B. Mr. *Holloway* was recommended by the Deputy Governour.

Extract

Extract of Mr. Woolley's *Letter to the Court of Directors, dated at* Havana *the* 18*th* December, 1733, N. S. *read in Court the* 2*d* Auguſt, 1734.

" Hitherto I have not been able to compleat " the Sale of the 46 Negroes, I have as yet Sold " but 32, and the remainder being of a wrong " Size and Shape for waiting Slaves, I fear they " will ſtay on my Hands.

Extract of Mr. Woolley's *Letter to the Court of Directors, dated at* Havana *the* 10*th* March, 1733, *read in Court the* 2*d* Auguſt, 1734.

" I have at laſt compleated the Sale of Ne- " groes (*viz.* 46) by the *St. James*, by taking " three my ſelf, and ſelling two for the greateſt " part ready Money, the reſt payable in four " Months—— The *Union Frigate* and *Adven-* " *ture Sloop*, who brought ten Negroes each, " both landed them in good Order and Condi- " tion. I have ſold all the *Union*'s Cargoe, by " putting off the two laſt, that would have ſtaid " on hand likewiſe, for part Money, and part " Truſt, in the ſame Proportion as the other, " with which I hope your Honours will be ſa- " tisfied, as I reckon the Negroes were worth " little more than the Money I received, and the " Debtor is a Man of Subſtance. Thoſe I " bought my ſelf no body would have given " more for, although they were of the Refuſe.

" I

" I herewith encloſe your Honours the Ac-
" counts of Sale, for the Sale of the two Car-
" goes, and expect you will be pleaſed with the
" Prices. The laſt by the *Adventure Sloop* were
" little Boys and Girls from eight to twelve
" Years of Age, of which, had I an Opportu-
" nity of writing for twenty or thirty, I could
" readily diſpoſe of them, were they equally
" beautiful. *But I never expect to ſell any*
" *Pieces of* India *for ready Money.*

" I have received ſeveral Sums of Money on
" Mr. *Eden*'s Account, amounting to Four
" thouſand ſeven hundred ninety one *Pieces of*
" *Eight* for ſundries, which in his Life-time he
" had lodg'd in Peoples Hands here.

" I have alſo paid for Expences, Charges on
" Merchandize, *&c.* to the Value of Two thou-
" ſand *Pieces of Eight*, and much more remains
" unpaid, which is abſolutely neceſſary to be
" diſcharged, ſo I forbear making any larger
" Remittance by this Ship than One thouſand
" *Pieces of Eight* on his Account.

" I am going on with thoſe Law Suits of your
" Reprizaliated Effects, but perceive they (the
" *Spaniards*) deſign to give them againſt the
" Honourable Company.

" Encloſed Your Honours will receive a Bill
" of Lading for Three thouſand *Pieces of Eight*
" weighing Three hundred fifty one Marks,
" which I remit on Account of Negro Sales, I
" would have ſent a larger Sum, but I have not
" received all the Money for Negroes ſold *per*
" *Adventure Sloop*, and I conſider the great

" Charges

" Charges I muſt pay on the Factory Account " here, as Judge Conſervator's Sallary, Law Suits, " &c. as well as Commiſſion, Tarif Allowance, " wherefore ſhall defer it 'till Upportunity offers " by your Snow the *St. George*, which I expect " next Month, which will ſave the Freight paid " on Chartered Veſſels.

Extract of Mr. Woolley's *Letter to the Court of Directors, dated at* Havana, *the* 30*th* May, 1734.

The firſt Head concerning the Detention of the Company's Ship *Union*.

" *This Veſſel being regularly diſpatched, was* " *detained in Port by contrary Winds a few Days,* " and when was preparing to ſail out, the Ships " from *Spain* were in Sight, &c. and on their " Arrival ſhe was Embargoed by the Admiral, " and ſtop'd by the new *Spaniſh* Factor.

" Arrived *April* the 19th, the Ship *Lyon*, " Captain *Stephen Bowen* from your Honours " Agents in *Jamaica*, with twelve ſmall Ne- " groe Boys and Girls, I have already Sold them " at the beſt Prices I could get, and will ſend " your Honours the Account by the *Lyon*. It " is uncertain when ſhe can be Diſpatched, as " the Honourable Company's Affairs can't be " ſaid to be Currant, and no one knows what " Difficulties may be ſtarted, but they have " promiſed to let her Load on *Monday* next, " and no Diligence ſhall be wanting on my " Part. —— *The Captain is at preſent in ſome*

Trouble

" *Trouble occaſioned by a ſmall Parcel of Goods*
" *being found in his Sailors Cheſts, but ſo ſmall as*
" *would not amount on Sale here to Three Hundred*
" *Pieces of Eight*, I believe him to be quite inno-
" cent of the Roguery.

" All the Proviſions that came down in her
" are put into Store-Houſes with Three Locks,
" and I am denied the common Neceſſaries
" for my Houſe.

" Since the Date of my laſt, I have paid, on
" your Honours Account, to *Don Joſeph Sierra*,
" One Thouſand Four Hundred Seventy Six
" Dollars; three Ryals as ordered in a Sen-
" tence by our Governour, *&c.*

P. S. " Since my Writing the above, a Guard
" from the Governor has taken me into Cuſtody,
" and Poſſeſſion of my Houſe: As the Honour-
" able Company's Affairs are hereby put to a
" Stop, *I deſign to give them the Account they re-*
" *quire, but will take Care to do it with a freſh*
" *Proteſt.*

N. B. This ſhows *Woolley* muſt know that the Court of Directors, had ordered *Holloway* and *Eden* to comply under a Proteſt; he ſucceeding on their Deceaſe, and having their Papers and Effects.

Mr. *Woolley* in his Letter the 25th of *June*, 1724. informs the Court of Directors, he had lent One Thouſand Dollars to the new Governour of *Porto Bello*.

Extract of the Governor of Havana's *Letter to Sir* Thomas Geraldino.

" Being fully informed of the Orders and " Inſtructions, which His Majeſty's Miniſters " have to interfere with, and take an Account of " the Negroe Slaves, introduced and Sold by " this Factory, and of the Effects and Proviſions, " for obtaining the Knowledge of the lawful " Returns, which being oppoſed by Mr. *Benja-* " *min Woolley*, *Don Juan Sequiera* repreſented " the ſame to me.

" This Repugnance in my Opinion, proceeds " from his having Effects of particular Perſons " among thoſe of the Company, (which will " be of no Advantage to the Principal Owners) " proceeding from the Diſorder and Negotiations " of illicit Introductions.

Extract of a Letter from the Spaniſh *Interventer to* Ditto. *Read in Court the ſame Day.*

" All the Cargoe (Ship *Lyon*) was put into " Magazines, laying the Proviſions and Goods " ſeparately, with the Formality of Three Keys " to each of the Magazines, under the Care of " the Governor, the Factor, and myſelf, agree- " ble to the Royal Orders aforementioned. I don't " relate to you the individual Particulars of the " ſaid Cargoe, but refer myſelf to the incloſed " Certificate, by which your Honour will ſee " the whole Contents thereof, and the irregula- " rity as to the Number of Slaves, and the Conſequences

" Conſequences of the Method in which this " Affair, was formerly carried on, which may " ſerve to repreſent it to the Royal Company " upon Occaſion, not doubting but that by the " Precedent of the ſaid Fregat, Care will be " taken not to attempt any thing in Contraven- " tion of the Articles, of the Aſſiento, tho' the " Envy on the Part of ſuch as uſed to Cloak " their Intereſts in this Negotiation will not be " wanting.

" The great Reluctance which the Factor has " ſhown, proves the Practices that were carried " on amongſt the former Irregularities to the " Company's Diſadvantage, which as the Inter- " vention ſerves to Bridle, it is plain that this " Oppoſition proceeds from the Concern of not " being able to continue the Negotiations which " the Factors have done, who in Reality have " been the only Gainers, and the Company Ex- " perienced the little Advantage, as will be ſeen " by their Account.

Extract of a Certificate of the Notary at Havana, *of Goods and Stores brought thither by the Ship* Lyon, *from* Jamaica.

Don Pedro Fernandez de Velaſco " Chief " Notary of Regiſters, and of his Majeſties " Royal Revenues in this City, of the *Hava-* " *na*, Do Certifie in the beſt manner I can, that " the Frigate called the *Lyon*, Captain *Stephen* " *Bowen* having come into this Port from the " Iſland of *Jamaica* in the Month of *April*

" laſt, to bring twelve Negroes *Mulequés* of
" both Sexes for this Factory, and for the Ac-
" count of the Royal Company of *London*, and
" alſo ſeveral Proviſions and Effects, the ſame
" were cauſed to be unloaded by Meſſ. the Go-
" vernour, Captain General and Royal Officers
" of the Royal Revenue of this Iſland, which
" were delivered to the Factor Mr. *Benjamin*
" *Woolley*, with the Intervention of *Don Juan*
" *Franciſco d'Sequeira*, Accountant of the Royal
" Court of Accounts and his Majeſty's Direc-
" tor in this City; and after unloading the ſaid
" Frigat. I drew an Extract of all the Cargoe
" Landed, by which it appears that the under-
" mentioned Effects, were Houſed in Maga-
" zines prepared by the Factory, with three
" Keys, one of which was to be kept by his
" Honour the Governour Captain General, ano-
" ther by his Majeſty's ſaid Director, and the
" third by the above-mentioned Factor, *viz.*

362 Barrels of Flour.
2 Caſes with 2 Desks and 2 Tables.
57 Hogſheads of Bottel'd Sider and Beer.
187 Casks of Butter.
40 Barrels of Herrings.
4 Hogſheads of Rum.
1 Barrel with Flaks of Wine.
1 Barrel with Bottles of Brandy.
5 Hogſheads of *Baccelao* or dry Fiſh.
6 Hogſheads with Bottles of Wine.
3 Caſes with Bottles of Wine.
1 Hamper Ditto.

42 Barrels

42 Barrels of Rum.
1 Barrel of Wine.
25 Barrels of Tar.
40 Pieces of Cordage.
1 Barrel of Packthread.

An Account of what was Delivered to the ſaid Factor Mr. Benjamin Woolley, *by Order of the ſaid Gentlemen.*

1 Caſe with 2 Looking-Glaſſes.
1 Caſe with Irons for a Garden.
1 Caſe and 1 Hamper with Bottles of Wine.
2 Small Caſes with Medicines.

Account of what was put ſeparately in a Magazine oppoſite to the Royal Contraduria.

4 Caſes of Horſe Furniture, Stirups, Bridles, *&c.*
3 Hogſheads with Earthen Ware.
2 Bundles of ſmall Hatchets.
19 Barrels of ſmall Ware, as Knives, Combs, *&c.*
4 Barrels of Copperas, one half empty.
4 Barrels of Lead Shot.
4 Caſes with Locks, Candleſticks, and other ſmall Wares.
6 Caſes with Glaſſes.
3 Bundles with Verdigreeſe.
3 Small Barrels of Gun Powder.
12 Pieces of Canvas.
2 Half Pieces of Ditto.

15 Blue

15 Blue Paper Sileſias.
10 Half Pieces of Sileſia Lawnes.
3 Ditto waſh't.
1 Paper with Razors.
2 Remnant, of Buckram.
2 Pair of Womens Silk Shoes.
9 Bundles of Packthread.
4 Hampers of Bottles.
3 Small Barrels.
3 Hogſheads of Bottles.
68 Small Barrels of Rum.

3 Caſes were put into the Principal Hall of the Royal Contraduria, which when opened contained Eſcrutoires.

All which appear in the Autos that remain in my Poſſeſſion and Office, to which I refer myſelf, excepting Errors of Pen or Accounts; and in order to deliver it to His Majeſty's Director, *Don Juan Franciſco d' Sequeira.* I give theſe Preſents upon common Paper, there being no Stamped in the City of *Havana.* The *1ſt* of *June*, the Year of 1734.

Pedro Fernandez de Velaſco.
Chief Notary of Regiſters.

N. B. The Stores and Proviſions for Uſe of the Factory, Ship, and Negroes, appear in the following Certificates, which ſhew the foregoing private Trade of too conſiderable a Tonage, to be privately concealed in Seamen's Cheſts; as

Mr. *Wolley*

Mr. *Woolley* informed the Company, in his Letter Dated the 30th of *May*, 1734. And altho' he Reports the ſaid private Trade ſo inconſiderable, as that it would not render Three Hundred Pieces of Eight if Sold there; yet by Eſtimation thereof made by the Company's Accountant, the Prime Coſt of what appears above Certified; amounts to 1249l. 11s. 9d. Sterling, excluſive of 19 Barrels of Mercery Ware not valued, the Sortments being unknown. The whole Cargoe, by Sir *Thomas Geraldino*, valued at near 30000 Pieces of Eight.

By Certificate from Jamaica. *The following Stores were Shipt on Board the Ship* Lyon, *for the Uſe of the Ship's Company.*

22 Barrels of Beef.
10 Barrels of Flour.
6 Casks of Beer.
6 Casks of Syder.
1 Cask of Cheeſe.
1 Suit of Spair Sails.
200 Hundred Weight of Shot.
20 lb. of Twine.
24 Hundred Weight of Bread.
10 Barrels of Peaſe.
3 Barrels of Pork.
3 Firkins of Butter.
10 lb. of Cordage.
10 Pieces of Canvas.

By Certificate from Jamaica, *Stores and Provisions Shipt on Board the* Lyon, *for the Use of* 15 *Negroes.*

Only 8 Barrels of Flour.

By Certificate from Jamaica, *Stores and Provisions Shipt on Board the* Lyon, *for the Use of Mr.* Benjamin Woolley.

10 Casks of Bottled Liquor.
6 Barrels of Red Herrings.
2 Casks of Brandy.
20 Barrels of Flour.
2 Hogsheads of Fish.
6 Barrels White Herrings.
1 Cask of Wine.

Sir *Thomas Geraldino* on the 12th *November*, 1734. Signified to the Committee of Corespondence, that Eight Thousand Dollars were Registered and brought home in the *Union* from *Havana*, whereas only Three Thousand Dollars were Consigned for Account of the Company; In answer whereto, by the Minutes of the Committee the Remainder is thus Accounted for. One Thousand Dollars sent to the Company for Account of Mr. *Eden* the late Factor, the other Four Thousand Shipt for Account of Mr. *Woolley* the present Factor, being the Produce of his Commission, but on a Computation made by the Company's Accountant, Mr. *Woolley*'s whole Commission on Sales and Returns, amounted to only

only 3543, Dollars, (out of which 600 Dollars, the Coſt of the three Negroes, he took of the Company for his own Account, and his Table and other Expences being deducted) the ſaid Sum will be greatly Diminiſhed.

The Proteſt of Captain William Williams, *Maſter of the* Union *Frigat, from the* Havana *as follows.*

Borough of *Portſmouth*

By this Publick Inſtrument and Declaration of Proteſt, be it known and manifeſt to all Perſons that ſhall ſee theſe Preſents, or that ſhall hear the ſame Read, That upon *Wedneſday* the Thirty Firſt Day of *July*, 1734. Before me *Edmond Corniſh*, Notary and Tabellion Publick, dwelling in *Portſmouth*; Perſonally came and appeared *William Williams*, Maſter and Commander of the Good Ship or Veſſel, called the *Union* Frigate of *Briſtol*, of the Burthen of Two Hundred and Eight Tons, or thereabouts, *Daniel Cheſton* Mate, *Jenkin Davis* Carpenter, and *William Phipps* Boatſwain of the ſaid Ship or Veſſel, and did ſolemnly declare to me, the Notary for Truth, that having Chartered their Ship at the Iſland of *Jamaica*, with *Edward Prater*, Eſq; who is Agent or Factor to the Honourable South Sea Company, to proceed to the *Havana*, on the Iſland of *Cuba*; they accordingly ſet Sail thence with Ten Slaves, on Board for the Company's Account, upon the

Second Day of *November* laſt paſt, and upon the 19th following, they arrived at their intended Port, and there deliverd the ſaid Slaves to the Company's Factor, Mr. *Benjamin Woolley*, and waited Sixty Running Days, according to Charter Party, to take on Board ſuch Goods and Merchandize, as the ſaid Company's Agent or Factor ſhould think fit to Ship on Board, in which Run of Days, their Ship was Loaded and ready to put to Sea, being Stark, and Sound, well Manned and Victualled, that upon the 17th of *February* following, the Sixty Days mentioned in the Charter Party expired, ſo their Ship Entered on Demurrage the 18th, at Three Pounds, Seven Shillings, and Six Pence *per Diem*. Sterling, with which, the Appearer *William Williams*, the Commander, immediately acquainted the ſaid *Benjamin Woolley*, and deſired the Ship might be diſpatch'd thence as ſoon as poſſible, That the ſaid Mr. *Benjamin Woolley*, then told the ſaid Appearer, to go to the Cuſtom-Houſe and Sign the Regiſter, but he could not be admitted ſo to do, being told by the Clerks, or Perſons acting there, that the Regiſter could not be made out, till the ſaid Mr. *Benjamin Woolley*, had Reported what Money he intended to Ship on Board, That theſe Appearers, with their ſaid Ship Loaded, continued in Port, under Demurrage, from the 17th of *February*, to the 17th of *June*, during all which time, Day by Day, and every Day, till the arrival of the *Spaniſh* Fleet from *Cadiz*, the ſaid Appearer *William Williams*, conſtantly applyed himſelf to the ſaid *Benjamin Woolley* for Diſpatch, that

upon the 17th Day of *May* last past, by Order of *Don John Sequiera*, Inspector for the Assiento Company, their Ship was Ordered to be unloaded, and the Cargoe put on Board other Ships then in Harbour, under Pretence that they had Suspicion other Merchandize might be Shipt on Board, more than what they knew of, or was Registred, to which End and Purpose in 4 Days time, the Ship was accordingly unloaded, and the Cargoe of Sugar, Snuff, and Tobacco, was put on Board the several Vessels in the said Road, as aforesaid; that 3 Days after the said Ship was so unloaded, the Governor and Royal Officers came on Board and searched the Ship, and there left Orders to load again, which these Appearers and Company, compleated by the 17th following, that on Loading and taking on Board the said Cargoe again, they found great part thereof Wet and Damaged with the Salt Water, therefore these Appearers in behalf of the Owners of the said Ship, themselves, and Company, and all others concerned in the said Cargoe have protested, and by these Presents, they do protest against the said Mr. *Benjamin Woolley*, as being Agent or Factor to the Honourable South Sea Company, for Neglect and Breach of Charter Party, and for causing the said Demurrage, as likewise against the said *Don John Sequiera*, for ordering the Ship to be unloaded, as the only sole Cause of all Damages, that shall, or may hereafter arise, or acrue thereby, and will not be answerable or accountable for the same, or any Part thereof, of all which, the said Appearers required of me, the

ſaid Notary, this Publick Act, which I have granted to ſerve and avail them in Time and Place Convenient: This done, declared, and proteſted, at *Portſmouth* aforeſaid, the Day and Year Firſt abovewritten.

Signed,
William Williams,
Daniel Chiſton.
Jenkin Davis.
William Phipps.

All which I Atteſt, being requeſted under my Hand and Seal of Office.
Edmond Corniſh,

Extracts of a Letter from the Court of Directors of the South-Sea Company, to Mr. Benjamin Woolley *their Factor at* Havana, *dated* London 31 *January*, 1734.

We Note the Governour had brought Diſpatches of the King of *Spain*, Appointing an Interventor in Virtue of the 28th Article: We did by our Letter of the 4th *May* 1733, to our late Factors Meſſ. *Holloway* and *Eden*, direct them if they found ſuch an Officer at the *Havana*, and he was one more than the Aſſiento warranted to Proteſt againſt him; We are now to acquaint you that his Catholick Majeſty has ſince placed an Interventor at each of our Factories, and we have ordered our ſeveral Factors that they ſhould ſubmit to their Intervention, and

and we hereby require you to do the ſame for the preſent, until you ſhall receive our Directions to the contrary; yet as we apprehend his Catholick Majeſty's appointingmore than two Interventors, is an Exceeding of the Aſſiento. We alſo order, that you enter your Proteſt againſt him in due Form. But you are by Civil Carriage to endeavour to cultivate a Friendſhip with him, as well as the Governor and other Perſons in Authority. That thereby the Company's Affair may go on with more Eaſe and Diſpatch; and you are from time to time to adviſe us how the Interventor Executes his Truſt, and whether he facilitates Matters, or Creates Embarraſments and Delays, which of Courſe muſt cauſe Expence and Damage. And wherein the Governour or He is unreaſonable. You are to ſend us due Proofs with Abſtracts in *Engliſh*, in order to our getting Redreſs.

And here we muſt take Notice that Sir *Thomas Geraldino* has communicated to us Certificates, whereby it appears there was more private Trade by the Ship *Lyon* than you acquainted us of, which private Trade we highly diſapprove of, and we alſo obſerve, that according to your Advices in the *P. S.* to your Letter of the 25th *June*. We thought you would have delivered to the Inventor the Accounts he demanded of the Company's Concerns, and thereby got the Ship *Lyon* diſpatched, and by her tranſmitted the Autos of the Hardſhips put on you, and the Company's Affairs; but by your Letter of the 25 *June*, we find 20 Days were granted you to give the ſaid Officer the

Ac-

Accounts he desired, and you not having got them ready in that time, 20 Days more had been granted you, yet to our great Surprize we perceive by a Letter from Messr. *Pratter* and *Merewether*, that they had received one from you, *Via St. Jago*, dated the 7th of *August* last, wherein you advise them, that the *St. George* (which Vessel you expected in *June* last) was not permitted to Load until you had delivered the said Account to the Interventor. Whereupon you had demanded she might go in her Ballast, and that you had not received any answer; we are concerned that the Dispute between you and the Interventor had so long subsisted: Had you delivered the Accounts, We cannot but think, that not only the Ship *Lyon*, of which you make no mention in your Letter to Messr. *Pratter* and *Merewether*, but the *St. George*, would not have been delayed; but certainly when you desired she might depart in her Ballast; You did not well consider the Thing, for thereby you would put the Company to a great Expence of dead Freight; Least you should have still persisted in your Refusal to deliver the Accounts to the Interventor, and both the said Ships should be detained; We expressly order you immediately, on Receipt hereof, to give him Accounts of all the Company's Affairs under, Protest, and we hope you will be able in a few Days to Load and Dispatch the said Ships (if not already Sailed) by whom you are fully to advise us of the State of all the Company's Dependencies, accompanying your Letters and Accounts with authentick Proofs in every Case.

We

We Note you had Lent 1000 l. to the New Governor of *Porto Bello*, which if not Repaid, we ſhall charge to your Account, you having no Orders to lend the Company's Money.

And laſtly, we muſt alſo blame you, that you did not Write fully to us, of the Situation of all our Affairs under your Care; at the ſame Time you Wrote to Meſſ. *Pratter* and *Merewether*.

We are likewiſe to acquaint you, that we have choſen you, and Meſſ. *Davidſon*, and *Humphrey*'s, to be our Factors for *Porto Bello*. We direct you to Settle the Account of all the Company's Concerns in your Hands without loſs of Time, in the cleaneſt Manner, in order to deliver the ſame to Meſſ. *Dennis*, *Walden*, and *Lambert*, our new Factors for the *Havana*, and the reſt of the Iſland of *Cuba*. And you are to wait the Arrival of our ſaid Factors, by whom we ſhall ſend you our further Orders for your Government.

N. B. Every Paragraph in the above Letter, blames Mr. *Woolley* for his Conduct, except the laſt, which directs him to prepare for the Station of Chief Factor of *Porto Bello* and *Panama*; an ample Amends for the Rebukes given him, and a handſome Reward for his good Deeds. Whether the Proprietors will think the foregoing Facts of ſuch a Nature, as to entitle him to this Particular Diſtinction, is left to their bettter Judgment to Determine.

At a General Court, Wedneſday, April *the* 16*th*, 1735.

The Sub Governor acquainted the Court, that the Court of Directors, in Conjunction with the Five Gentlemen they had been pleaſed to add to them, to reconſider the Choice and Stationing, of Mr. *Benjamin Woolley*, in the Company's Service, had come to the following Reſolution, *Viz.*

That the ſaid Mr. *Woolley* do not take Poſſeſſion of the Station of Firſt at *Porto Bello* and *Panama*, until the Court of Directors have ſent him an Account of the ſundry Accuſations laid againſt him, and until he ſhall have given his Anſwers to the ſame, to the Satisfaction of the Court of Directors.

And in a Motion made and ſeconded, That this Court doth confirm the ſaid Reſolution.

It was put to the Hands, and paſt in the Affirmative.

ERRATA.

In the 3d leaf of the Dedication, *Line* 25. for *Woolleys* read *Woolley*, In the laſt leaf of the Preface, *Line* 6. for *Letters* read *Letter*, Page 7. for Mr. *Tyson* read *Tryon*.

FINIS,